

THE PEOPLE.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential)..... 2,068
In 1890 18,331
In 1892 (Presidential)..... 21,157
In 1894 33,133
In 1896 (Presidential)..... 36,564
In 1898 82,204

One fetish of the people is to attribute to the king what they do themselves. They fight. Whose the glory? The king's. They pay. Whose the generosity? The king's. Then the people love him for being so poor. The king receives a crown from the poor, and returns them a farthing. How generous he is! The colossal which is the pedestal contemplates the pigmy which is the statue. How great is this myrmidon! he is on my back. A dwarf has an excellent way of being taller than a giant; it is to perch himself on his shoulders. But that the giant should allow it, there is the wonder—and that he should admire the height of the dwarf, there is the folly. Simplicity of mankind!

VICTOR HUGO.

IS THERE A "WOMAN QUESTION"?

A recent number of the "Cosmopolitan" contains an article on the "Woman Question" by the talented Olive Schreiner that goes far to render one charitable towards that brand of "Reformers" that move along the line of sex. If so talented a woman as Olive Schreiner can blunder so egregiously, what can be expected of her less favored sisters?

The purpose of the article is to show how the march of society is marked by marked changes in the work that woman has performed; each change consisting in stripping her of some function previously performed by her, until the day has come when even the function of bearing children is being taken away from woman.

Surely the presentation of the "Woman Question" in such a way, especially culminating with such a climax, should serve to establish beyond peradventure the fact that there is a "Woman Question"; a very serious question, at that, and one particularly concerning woman. Nevertheless what the article does accomplish is to crushingly demolish that baneful error that consists in blurring the Race or Social Question by introducing the untenable issue of sex. Indeed, the very climax of the article by specifying a subject, that falls exclusively within one sex, serves the purpose of demonstrating the fundamental falsity of the sex issue.

Another talented woman, George Elliot, called attention to the fact that the important thing to do was not to discover differences in things seemingly alike, but to discover the likeness in things seemingly different. If Olive Schreiner had taken her philosophic sister's advice, she would have escaped the blunder into which she fell, and would have discovered in the seemingly different fates of man and of woman an eye-opening identity. She would have discovered that machinery, together with concentrated capital, was stripping man as well as woman of one household function after another; she would have discovered that, as fast as sewing, spinning, etc., was taken from the housewife, carpentering, tinkering, etc., was also taken from the pater familias, production tending evermore to be carried on en masse, for sale, ever less for home use or consumption; and thus, following the march of events by the light of that wise direction to seek the likeness near there may be in things seemingly unlike, rather than seek the difference there may be in things seemingly alike, she would have noticed (and understood) the significance of the simultaneous phenomena of the towns and of the rows—manifestations that are but the same of the broad fact that Capitalism uproots the family, depriving man as well as woman of the function of procreation; and, above all, that woman, as well as man, figures among the pestiferous tyrants as the beneficiary of this family-destroying and race-unsexing system of capitalism.

There is no woman question, neither man question; there is no race question, nor color question, nor religious question. What there is is the Humanity Question—the SOCIAL QUESTION. To take up sex, color, creed or race is to fritter away energy at the twigs of the tree whose trunk should be attended to. All these so-called "questions" are but the fruit or flower that betray with their poison-taste or smell the nature of the poison-tree from which they

spring. That tree is Capitalism, the poisoner of the human race.

Brothers and sisters, all, let us lay the axe to its root and hew that tree down!

DISGRACEFUL ATTITUDE OF CONTINENTAL POWERS.

The Powers of Continental Europe are in a frenzy of joy at the thrashing England is receiving at the hands of the Boers. Is this joy due to their admiration of the brilliant military strategy displayed by the Boers? No! Is it due to their sympathy with a country striving to gain its political freedom? No! The joy is due to the fact that each of these rejoicing Powers, and all combined, have been beaten by the piratical capitalist ruling class of England in the game that each of these Powers have taken a hand in, but never could reach "British perfection."

But the spectacle is doubly disgraceful. Besides being disgraceful in that it betrays the joy of little bullies at the trials of a big bully, it is disgraceful in that the sense of injured dignity that these Continental Powers certainly retain against England for her repeated trespasses upon them, can be soothed, and the injuries avenged if these Powers but abandoned their own home capitalist piratical social system.

The weakness of the Continental Powers lies in that they are capitalist Powers; on that field England has the start of them, and holds the sword over their heads just because to capitalist countries colonies are a necessity, and the navy of England is, therefore, able to cripple the needed commerce of all her continental enviers. But capitalism dropped, the nation co-operatively organized, production of the necessities of life making the upward jump that it then would, not only would the happiness of those countries increase a thousand-fold, but they would become infinitely more powerful. Their striking arm—if the striking of a foe should be deemed advisable—could be raised with irresistible force against a nation that is still trammelled by the capitalist system;—and then the bullying power of England would be at an end.

But this course the Continental Powers will not take. They prefer to snarl at England rather than to free themselves. It is left to the class-conscious Proletariat of Continental Europe to perform this all-round important task, in the performance of which the British class-conscious Proletariat will itself take a hand, thus overthrowing the disgrace-breeding international capitalist class.

PUCKING SOCIALISM.

The Bryan-Democrat and Liquor dealers' candidate, the "Socialist" Mayor Chase, of Haverhill, has perpetrated a message to which a whole, long article should be devoted, taking up each point made as so many illustrations of the fact that Debs-Democracy, or Social-Democracy Socialism is but a Puck caricature of Socialism, as far as its principles are concerned;—as far as its practice is concerned, the fact of its being inherently corrupt, and but a mantle for capitalist chicanery, that the Chase or Haverhill brand has amply demonstrated before, and need not be here rehearsed again. As to the Puckishness of Haverhill's Social Democracy Socialism, let two instances, borrowed from Mr. Chase's inaugural, tell the tale.

Says the gentleman in one place:

Everything is rapidly becoming monopolized. The MIDDLEMEN and the toilers are being driven to penury and want, while the accumulated product of centuries is fast going into the hands of a few, who toil not, neither do they spin.

Consequently Wannamaker, Macy, Ridley, Siegel-Cooper, Marshall Field, and the other large department stores, that dot the land,—all of them being MIDDLEMEN—are being driven into penury and want!!!

The galleimias of Haverhill's Puck-Socialism proceeds, on the one hand, from its dense ignorance upon what the "middleman" means, and upon the "middleman's" important, necessary rôle in all civilized social systems as the living engine of distribution; and, on the other hand, the galleimias proceeds from the essential middle class instincts of Haverhill's Puck Socialism, and the predominant Haverhill middle class feature of being small retailers (small middlemen).

The "toiler" and the "middleman" cannot be lumped together, the former is a proletarian, the latter is a bourgeois. In the development of capitalism, the toiler, as a class, sinks ever lower into "penury and want"; just the reverse with the middleman, as a class. Individual middlemen may go down in the competition of capitalists with capitalists,—just the same as with manufacturing capitalists,—but as a class, the middleman-sub-division of capitalism, faring just as the manufacturing subdivision of capitalism, grows ever more powerful: the middlemen mammoth concerns of the Wannamakers spring up hand in hand with the Carnegie establishments. To lump the middleman and the toiler together, and then weep over both is to out-Puck Puck.

Again, under the head of "Taxation"—a painful subject, be it remembered, for the middle class,—the Haverhill Debs-Democrat "Socialist" Mayor says: The subject of taxation is a vexing one to all municipalities, and always will be so long

as the present system exists. Every growing city is confronted with increasing needs and a corresponding inability to provide for them by tax levy, and A RESCUE TO BOND ISSUES IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

Bond issues to be an escape from tax levy!!! How are the bonds to be paid for, interest and capital? Hitherto taxation was the only way. But it seems that a brand new style of bonds is now to make its appearance, a bond that is to be redeemed and the interest on which is to be paid without any tax levy.

The thing that spooks in the head of the "Socialist" mayor of Haverhill is again typical of middle class muddle-headedness. Never sensible enough to recognize that the social system, by which they would like to grow into sharks, is reducing them down to minnows for the actual sharks to devour; never intelligent enough to understand that, the middle class ever tightens the rope tighter around its own neck by the very means that it imagines to escape by.

Its goods cannot compete with the large Capitalists, hence its life becomes harder. Does the middle class rise equal to the occasion and help overthrow the existing social system? No! It goes to the banker, raises a loan, and by escaping immediate bankruptcy, it imagines it has escaped for good. Yet not so. What it has done is to strap an added obligation upon its back that will render its collapse more grievous. Unable before to make the two ends meet, now that it has the added burden of interest to pay, it collapses under the Sheriff's hammer. Just so now with the Haverhill Debs-Democratic "Socialist" Mayor. The class he represents, and whose instincts breathe out of every one of his pores, is ground down by taxation, and that class imagines it can escape taxation by the issuing of bonds, little stopping to think that presently the whole bond (and its interest right along) will roll back upon it and have to be redeemed by taxes—to the greater glory of the upper or big shark Capitalist class.

The Pucking of Socialism, in which the Haverhill Social or Debs Democrats are engaged, is typical of middle class turpitude. Ever under false colors, ever wielding swords that its nerveless arms are not equal to, that class now spouts some Socialist phrases, but pursues middle class policy and aims.

As the thing is bound to wither sooner or later, and sooner than later, the performances of the Haverhill Debs-Democracy "Socialism" should not pass by unnoticed for instruction and warning, and unappreciated for fun.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The Indianapolis, Ind., "News" seems blissfully ignorant of the nature of the political waters that the keel of the nation's "ship of state" is now traversing. It says:

It is just as necessary for the country that there should be an opposing party as a governing party. The Democrats should abandon silver. There is room for "division" on questions of statesmanship as to the future care of dependencies.

An "opposition party," to "keep the other in check," and alternating with that other, each alternately "keeping the other in check," is a product of days of economic or political stagnation. With a social system in existence and in force, "opposition" parties for in-check-keeping purposes naturally arise, and to justify their existence must scheme issues. The political struggle under such circumstances is a farce; and such we have seen it of late to be between the Democratic and Republican parties. But these days are going by. The political waters, agitated by the under-currents of the industrial evolution, are getting choppy: the old style of "issues" can no longer be manufactured; new issues are arising that make against both the old political parties, seeing that these issues are flat denials of the very structural formation on which the old parties rest. Worst of all for the old style of "issues" and parties, with their old style flippancy, is the rise of a new political party—the Socialist Labor Party—that issues from the very nature of the changing political waters, and that fits these changes as the Nalad fits her cradle-waves.

The "News" advice is out of date.

Can it be? Yes it is. The New York "Sun" and the "International Typographical Union" are arrum in arrum. Last Monday's "Sun" publishes, with approving headlines, a statement by Auditor St. Clair, Gov. Steuben's representative in the rascalities committed against the miners in the Cœur d'Alene region, that adds insult to the injury now perpetrated upon the workers by the capitalist class in Idaho, and the "Sun" publication is exactly in accord with the report of the International Typographical Union's man, Kennedy, and in accord with the resolutions adopted by the International Typographical Union's branch in Boise, Idaho.

The New Orleans, La., says:

Eugene V. Debs may come here if the Trades and Labor Council so decide.

It would have been correcter to say:

Eugene V. Debs may come here if his advance agent can properly "work" the Trades and Labor Council so as to pay Debs a couple of hundred dollars for the privilege of hearing him recite some poetry, and crib some Socialist speeches which he does not understand.

TWO BAD FEATURES.

There are some things about Socialists I do not like.

First, I don't admire their intolerance; second, their impractical character. These two features lead them into many mistakes. In order that I may make clear what it is that I mean, let me cite two instances, one local, the other international, to the point.

Two or three years ago, there was inaugurated in New York City, an educational movement, known as "The People's Institute." The aim of this movement is, according to its promoters, the extension of sociological knowledge among the working classes by means of lectures and discussions. The support of many professors, clergymen, rabbis, labor leaders and literary lights was secured, many of whom lectured and participated in the discussions held under its auspices. In fact, every one, excepting the intolerant and narrow-minded Socialists, engaged in the laudable work. They alone held aloof, saying that "The People's Institute" was a capitalist concern whose object was the reverse of that announced; that instead of the extension of sociological knowledge, its purpose is the perpetuation of capitalist ignorance.

Last week a New York newspaper informed its readers, through its news columns, that one of the lecturers advertised to lecture before "The People's Institute" had his engagement cancelled. Inquiry revealed the fact that this was done at the behest of a monopolistic oil corporation that subscribed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the support of "The People's Institute," and that was opposed to the lecturer because he had antagonized it during his term of office as a State's attorney-general. It was a case of choosing between the loss of a sociological lecture (from a reactionary standpoint, it is true) and the loss of some hundreds of thousands of beautiful, round, sound, substantial dollars from a capitalist corporation, with the decision in favor of the latter.

Now, that is the first instance. It does, undoubtedly, prove the Socialists to have been correct in their statement of the real object of the so-called "People's" institute. But, then, how much nicer it would be if the Socialists were a little broader, and would only permit themselves to waste their mental energies, digesting and assimilating the sociological hash, dished out by the purveyors of intellectual food at the "People's" institute. What, if they did suffer from an attack of mental indigestion (better known as muddle-headedness) and were compelled to place themselves in the hands of those capitalist quacks who, under pretense of curing their disorder, would utilize it to extort big fees, in the shape of surplus value, from them for the benefit of their (the quacks') masters, the head "physicians"—the capitalists? What's a little surplus value when broadness is concerned? Note how readily the gentlemen of the "People's" institute part with theirs in order that they may be broad and liberal, too.

Now, for the second instance.—During the early part of last year, an international conference, aiming at the abolition of war and the establishment of universal peace, was called at the Hague, through the initiative of the benign Czar of all the Russias. It was said, at the time, that though this conference would not succeed in abolishing war entirely, it would adopt measures, like arbitration and more humane codes of warfare, that would prevent and mitigate its horrors to a great extent.

Thereupon every one sang the praise of the benevolent Czar, and approved of the conference as a practical move in the direction of a nobler and higher civilization; every one—but those impractical Socialists. They called it "cant," "hypocrisy," a bamboozle and waste of valuable time. "War," said they, "has its origin in the economic necessities of Capitalism. Under Capitalism, the industrial nations of the world must always extend their territory, in order that they may acquire new markets in which to dispose of the surplus products that glut the home markets because of the taking of surplus value. Therefore, if we would really end war, or even prevent it occasionally and mitigate its horrors, when necessary, we must end the taking of surplus value and the necessity for new markets that flows from it; in other words, we must end Capitalism." Well, every one voted the Socialists dreamers, doctrinaires, visionaries and a few other things indicative of dogmatism and a lack of practical sense, while the conference approved of arbitration as a preventative of war, and the use of dum-dum bullets and liddite as a more humane way of carrying it on. What humane difference there is between the dum-dum bullets and liddite of the "civilized" capitalist and the barbarous weapons of the "uncivilized" savage is not quite apparent; but, then, that doesn't matter, anyway; it's a digression from the main subject, so let it go.

Hardly had the conference finished its advance "toward a higher and nobler civilization," and some of the delegates had secured higher and nobler positions and salaries, as a result of their "arduous labors" in the furtherance of such advance, when war between the British and the Boers began. Now, it does a man who is a man, in the most modern sense, good to see how that war demonstrated that arbitration is a practical preventative of war, and that the Socialists are impractical thinkers. Ah, it does a man good to see how it was that war never occurred, and note the insignificant loss of life that follows its sublimely humane pursuit. In the beginning of the war, thus prevented and pursued, England, history informs us, would not listen to offers of mediation. This leading actor in the just proceeding "Drama of Peace" thus showed she had mouthed her part without any consideration for morality and justice; she resorted to cant and hypocrisy. As a result her soldiers are now being mown down on the battle field by thousands, filling the nation with consternation and alarm, and arousing all her enemies, who played subordinate parts in the drama in which England was the star, into an activity that threatens her complete downfall. They, the peace-conferrers, the practical advanced of a "nobler and higher civilization," are hovering like carrion-crow around this as they hope, dying nation, ready to pounce upon and devour her interests in India, China and wherever possible;

for this death will mean to them a control of territory that will insure their industrial progress and domination.

But, then, you Socialists ought not to be so impractical. What, if this does prove the correctness of your "theories" of war? What, if this drama of battle and blood, this terrible epic waiting for a new Homer to sing it, is true? Why not be "practical"? Why not help those things that bring you nearer your goal?

These are my two objections and my one argument against the Socialists. BROOKLYNIAN.

Marx' Great Work.

The science of political economy is commanding the attention of thoughtful people as never before. The issues of contending political parties are turning more and more to industrial questions, the solution of which demands the most searching investigation of the basic principles of political economy.

Every wile known to the "political heeler" is being urged to deceive the worker, but there are many signs, well observed by the enemy, that "The Man with the Hoe," is not "Brother to the Ox," his form is not "stooped," although for ages he has borne the burden of the world, but erect, with sinews of iron, to battle for the emancipation of the race. Nor has he "the slanting brow," but a developing intellect that is fast becoming conscious of the dignity and mission of his class.

The wage workers can and must think for themselves. Their common interests should bind them together in an intelligent effort to discover the cause of their enslavement. It does not require a very comprehensive mind to understand that there is a way out, a rational remedy for every economic maladjustment. Perhaps with a little common sense and study we may find the cause of our enslavement and the way out of it. To this end, classes in Political Science are being organized, using "Capitalist Production," by Karl Marx, as a text book.

The work is by far the most scientific exposition of capitalist production extant. No less an authority than Encyclopedia Britannica (Vol. 22, Page 223) has this to say: "The great work of Marx may be described as an exposition and criticism of Capital." But it is also, indirectly, an exposition of Socialism, inasmuch as the practical evolution of capital is governed by natural law, the inevitable tendency of which is toward Socialism. It is the great aim of Marx to reveal the law of the economic movement of modern times; now the economic movement of modern times is dominated by capital. Explain, therefore, the natural history of capital, the use, consolidation and decline of its supremacy as an evolutionary force, and you forecast the nature of that into which it is being transformed—Socialism. Hence the great task of the Marx school is not to preach an economic and social gospel, not to provide a new and ready-made scheme of social regeneration after the fashion of the early Socialists, nor to counteract by alleviating measures the wretchedness of our present system, but to explain and promote the inevitable process of social evolution so that the domination of capital may run its course and give place to that higher system that is to come. He spent forty laborious years almost wholly in exile as the champion of the proletariat. In the combination of learning, philosophic acumen and literary power he is probably second to no economic thinker of the nineteenth century. He seems to have been master of the whole range of economic literature and wielded it with a logical skill not less masterly. But his great strength lay in his knowledge of the technical and economic development of modern industry, and in his marvelous insight into the tendencies of social evolution determined by the technical and economic factors."

The above review, though not written by a scientific Socialist, serves to show that in the estimation of thinkers and scholars "Capitalist Production" by Marks ranks the highest in economic literature.

Wage workers, read this book! It will teach you, not only how to think, but, by implication, how to act. It is not a dream book. It breathes no piteous whine for charity, but an uncompromising demand for justice. It constructs no millennial paradise predicated upon the golden rule, but recognizes the facts of human nature, in accordance with natural law.

The State Committee of the S. L. P., recognizing the importance of placing this book in the hands of the wage workers; having charge of the printers belonging to the party, in the State, we are able to print, on good paper, with plates from the type used in this circular, with paper cover, and mail 5,000 copies of "Capital by Marx" for \$2,500. And, having received encouraging letters from other State Committees and Sections, we make the following proposition: If we can get 5,000 subscribers, at 50 cents each, we will issue the book, and turn the plates over to the National Executive Committee.

Let each Section elect an agent to canvass for subscribers, the agent to report to us, on the first of each month, the number of paid-up subscribers.

When 5,000 subscribers are secured by all the agents, we will notify the agents to forward the money.

Every Socialist should push this work! It is the best propaganda extant, will furnish the Party with first-class plates of "Capital," free, and the price is within the reach of the wage workers.

MISSOURI STATE COMMITTEE,

410½ Market, St., St. Louis, Mo.

Lectures.

Jan. 12—J. Seidel, "Taxes," (Jewish) Excelsior Literary Society, 184 Delancey street, New York, 8 P. M.

Jan. 14—Julian Pierce, "Capitalism and Socialism," Wurzer's Hall, 315 Washington street, Brooklyn, 8 P. M.

Jan. 17—Thos. A. Hickey, Columbia Hall, Carroll street, corner Columbia, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Jan. 18—Thos. A. Hickey, 1265 Third ave., Brooklyn.

Jan. 22—Thos. A. Hickey, Fraternity Hall, 869 Bedford ave., Brooklyn.



Uncle Sam and Brother Jonathan.

UNCLE SAM—I saw you reading the Socialist Labor Party's platform. I'm glad of it. Are you going to join?

BROTHER JONATHAN—I don't yet know. There are a number of things I don't yet understand.

U. S.—Which one, for instance?

B. J.—How they're going to do it. For instance: Here are the Vanderbilts and others owning the railroads; there are the Goulds owning the telegraphs, and so forth. I understand that the Socialists want all these things, including the mines, the factories—

U. S.—The whole machinery of production, transportation and distribution.

B. J.—Yes, they want to nationalize all these things.

U. S.—Correct.

B. J.—But all these things are now owned by private individuals. How are these to be taken from them? Are these people going to be bought off? If so, where are you going to get the money from? Or?

U. S.—Bought off! Was King George "bought off"? Did the colonists raise money to pay him? My recollection of the transaction is, and might proud of it are our so-called "Sons" and our so-called "Daughters of the Revolution" (most of whom now own these railroads, mines, factories, etc.), that, when "moneys were raised," they were raised to knock down King George, not to "buy him off," he not having shared the view of the Revolutionary Fathers that "these colonies are and of right ought to be free."

B. J.—Why, then, Socialists mean to confiscate all these things!?

U. S.—Did the Revolutionary Fathers "confiscate" these colonies?

B. J. puckers his lips.

U. S.—They belonged to King George.

B. J.—They did.

U. S.—If the simple fact of taking away a thing from one who "owns" it is "confiscation," then these colonies were surely "confiscated" away from King George.

B. J.—I don't like that word, "confiscation."

U. S.—But wasn't it confiscation all the same.

B. J. makes a wry face.

U. S.—Let me come to your aid. It wasn't confiscation.

B. J.—I'm glad you say so.

U. S.—You evidently feel that the taking away of the colonies from King George has all the outward marks of confiscation, and yet you have a strong aversion to giving that name to the action of our Revolutionary Fathers. There is a conflict in your mind. The reason is that you are not clear upon an important legal, historic and sociologic fact.

B. J.—Which?

U. S.—The term "confiscation" implies the recognition of a certain law. If the property taken is owned by a law that is recognized, then the act is confiscation; if the law on which the ownership is based is denied, then there is no confiscation. Now, then, under a sun that ever shone, in no clime, and at no time have peoples ever meekly follow their arms and died by law. Just as soon as a people realize, are conscious of the fact, that a certain law, or system of laws, stands between them and their lives, that law has gone. Catch on?

B. J.—I do.

U. S.—Now, then, the property of these colonies in King George was grounded on certain laws; our Revolutionary Fathers long felt the shoe pinching; their lives becoming more and more precarious, they did not know where the fault lay, and groped about, bowing to that law. Finally, the truth dawned upon them. They became conscious of the fact that the trouble lay in the social system, that is, the system of laws under which they were going down. Just as soon as they saw that, they knicked the law overboard—

B. J.—Bully for them!

U. S.—And took possession of the country. Their depriving King George of what he had was not "confiscation," because the Revolution overthrew the law on which his "property rights" rested.

B. J.—And high time it was, too!

U. S.—Revolutions bring along with them their own laws. By the laws of our first Revolution, this territory was ours, and, accordingly, we simply took possession of our own. That surely was not confiscation.

B. J.—That's all right.

U. S.—So with regard to the ownership of these mines, railroads, factories, in short, of the nation's machinery of production. The proprietary rights of the present owners, the capitalist class, are grounded on a certain system of laws. So long as people bow to them they will consider the taking of that people feel pinched and are going down, property to be confiscation. But they will pretty soon discover that these laws stand between themselves and their lives. Soon as they make that discovery, the law will be overthrown, and, with that, the proprietary rights of the capitalist class. Our second Revolution, now at hand, will bring its own laws along with it. By these laws the ownership of the nation's machinery of production will vest in the people jointly; and when they take possession they will be simply taking their own. So long as you prate about "knocking off," or are preoccupied about "confiscating" the nation's machinery of production, you simply betray the fact that you have not yet found out the present social system, or system of laws, decrees your death.

The receipt of a sample copy of THE PEOPLE is an invitation to subscribe.

SWINE RENDING SWINE.

A Pen Picture of Capitalist Concerns Reading Each Other.

HOLYOKE, Mass., Jan. 4.—The last session of the Holyoke Board of Aldermen, on December 20, 1899, was not only the longest session on record, lasting from 8 o'clock in the evening until midnight, but was a memorable one in more than one way.

The object of the meeting was to act upon two petitions for franchises, one by the Massachusetts Telephone Company for permission to establish a rival telephone system in Holyoke, in opposition to the present New England Telephone and Telegraph Company; the other for permission to establish a new street-car line, connecting Easthampton, Northampton and Westfield with Holyoke.

The aldermanic chamber and corridors were crowded with city officials, lawyers and spectators who had come to witness the anticipated fray, and neither were they disappointed. The fray became a battle royal of big capitalists against big capitalists for the possession of prospective dollars which are to be squeezed out of the public.

President Holbrook and Attorney Poole, of the Massachusetts Telephone Company, showed in glowing words the benefits Holyokers might derive out of the proposed new telephone system; they held up to view the big profits the present New England Company is squeezing out of the public, and denounced that as an injustice.

When Mr. Holbrook concluded, the Socialist alderman rose to ask a few questions, whereupon this dialogue ensued:

Soc. ALD.—"Mr. Holbrook, how much of your proposed lines will be underground conduits?"

Holbrook—"We propose to have all our lines underground, except in the only districts."

Soc. ALD.—"Are you willing to give the city the free use of one or more of your conduits for its fire alarm and police signal service?"

Holbrook—"Yes, sir."

Soc. ALD.—"Will you accept any location for your wires designated by our Board of Public Works?"

Holbrook—"Yes, sir."

Soc. ALD.—"Would you be willing to enter into a contract with the city, in lieu of paying taxes, the city to own the conduits?"

Holbrook—"Yes, sir; we would be even glad to enter into such a contract. What is your tax rate?" (\$16 per 1000.)

Soc. ALD.—"In the construction of the work, will you give Holyoke workmen the preference, at the rate of eight hours per day and \$2 minimum wages?"

Holbrook (laughingly)—"Yes, sir."

Soc. ALD.—"Would you be willing to have that part of the street under which your conduits are laid?"

At this point the President of the Board, Alderman French, rapped his gaveling colleague to order, and stated that what he proposed would conflict with the city ordinances. To this the Socialist alderman replied that the city being about to grant a valuable franchise, it was his duty to get all the concessions possible from the company as a condition for granting the franchise. After the franchise was granted nothing more could be got, as was evident from the present trouble between the city and the New England Telephone Company, which had already lasted over three years.

Attorney Powers, in behalf of the New England Company, remonstrated against the granting of the franchise. He spoke nearly an hour, and tried to show that his company was paying a dividend of only 6 per cent., and that the business men of Holyoke would gain nothing by the new company.

President Holbrook laughed at the idea of "6 per cent. profits," and let out these two cats, saying: "We give the lawyers the figures to talk about, but never facts"; and "We may call each other hard names in argument, but we remain gentlemen always and at home together."

The matter was then referred to next year's city government.

It was now a quarter past ten o'clock when the street car franchise came up; the lawyers were at each other at once. Lawyer O'Donnell, of Holyoke, president pro tem. for the new company, stated that the new venture would immensely benefit the business men of Holyoke.

Again, the Socialist alderman rose to ask a few questions, and this dialogue took place:

Soc. ALD.—"Mr. O'Donnell, how much of your proposed railroad system runs upon the city highways, and how much upon private lands?"

O'Donnell—"About two-thirds of the line runs upon the city highways, and one-third upon private lands."

Soc. ALD.—"At these times of rapid transit our country roads are too narrow for any more crowding; are you willing to widen the roads sufficiently for safe travel?"

O'Donnell—"Yes, sir; we are willing to widen these roads to the required limit."

Soc. ALD.—"Are you willing to keep the roads free of snow in winter for safe travel by the public?"

O'Donnell—"Yes, sir; we are willing to clean the snow off from curb to curb."

Soc. ALD.—"Are you willing to employ Holyoke labor exclusively, and at the rate of eight hours a day and \$2 minimum wages?"

O'Donnell—"Yes, sir; with great pleasure."

Several prominent Holyoke business men were next called upon to show reasons why the franchise should be granted. All of them saw the prospective dollars rolling into their tills from these neighboring towns. Druggist J. J. Curran (ex-mayor) best expressed their views by stating that he was buying his goods in Springfield, and every time he saw those car-loads of people rolling into Springfield to do their trading he saw the necessity of diverting some of that trade to the Holyoke business men.

Alderman Hugh McLean, the democratic leader in the Holyoke Board of Aldermen, made an eloquent plea in favor of this new saviour of Holyoke's business men.

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Thomas Cormody, a stove dealer, went into ecstasies over the new scheme; in fiery language he denounced the old street car company for its tyranny. Speech upon speech followed, until the enthusiasm of the spectators reached fever heat.

Then came Lawyer Brooks, as remonstrant for the old company. He said the new company was a fraudulent concern, without any financial backing, having some trust company behind it, whose name could not be obtained. His company was ready to build the desired road in less time than the new company would be able to do. Brooks, bathed in perspiration, tried in vain to swing the audience over to his side, but he never got a cheer. There seems to be a deep-rooted hatred prevailing for the old company.

In closing, Lawyer Brooks made this suggestive statement: "Gentlemen, we are paid attorneys, talking for pay; I receive mine when I have spoken; you expect to receive yours in the bye and bye; we are all after the dollar." In the course of his speech Cormody had said, raising his voice to a high pitch: "I am pledged to \$5,000, and can make it \$50,000 if necessary." Alluding to this, Lawyer Brooks asked the question: "Are you willing to tell that to the assessors?" (Laughter.)

Being a few minutes to midnight, the oratory ceased, and a motion was made to refer the matter to the next city government. This was amended that the franchise be granted. The motion was lost. Upon the motion to grant the franchise the Socialist alderman went on record as being opposed to the granting of the franchise while the eight democrats present voted in favor.

When the Socialist alderman recorded his vote as "no," a murmur of dissent went through the audience; it was freely said that he was bought up. The next day the Democratic papers contained insulting articles against the Socialist, but never a word against the Republicans, who also voted "no."

The Socialist Labor Party, at its regular meeting on December 24, 1899, adopted this resolution:

WHEREAS, The Socialist Labor Party is organized for the purpose of securing complete political power, to be used for public good, instead of for private gain, as is being done now by Republican and Democratic public officials; and

WHEREAS, The Socialist Labor Party stands firmly opposed to the further strengthening of the Capitalist class by granting them more franchises; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we fully approve of the action of our representative in the City government, M. Rutherford, for refusing to grant a franchise to the representatives of a new street railroad company at the meeting of the Holyoke Board of Aldermen, held on December 20, 1899.

E. A. BUCKLAND, Chairman.

Supplementing this resolution, Comrade Rutherford makes this statement:

1. I voted against the franchise because the platform upon which I was elected pledges me to give away no more franchises to private corporations.

2. From the facts presented it led me to believe that the whole scheme is not above suspicion as a fraudulent railroad scheme.

3. The City of Holyoke now owns a steam railroad to Westfield which paid 10 per cent. dividend this year, and it would be bordering on insanity to sanction the building of a rival road in competition with our own.

4. It makes no difference to the wage-worker which railroad money king pockets his nickel for a street car ride.

5. I obtained valuable concessions from the temporary directorate of the new company, but when the franchise was read prior to adoption, my concessions were ignored.

LABOR NEWS COMPANY, 147 East 23rd Street, New York City (Store open from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M.)

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Karl Marx: The Communist Manifesto.....\$0.10
Wages, Labor and Capital......05
Value, Price and Profit......05
The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis-Napoleon......25
The Civil War in France......10
Frederick Engels: Development of Socialism from Utopia to Science......05
Hyndman and Morris: The Principles of Socialism......15
Ferdinand Lassalle: What is Capital?......05
The Workingman's Programme......10
A. P. Hazzell: The Exploitation of Labor......05
H. Quetch: Economics of Labor......05
Quetch and Wright: Socialism and the Single Tax: a debate......05
Lucien: The Socialist Almanac......50
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Kautsky: The Capitalist Class......05
The Proletariat......05
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We have secured a number of Lisagay's standard books "History of the Paris Commune," regular price, \$1.00, which we offer at 75 cents while they last. To clubs of ten at 60 cents.

For cloth-bound books, see advertisement on fourth page.

Catalogue mailed free of charge on application.

Make all money-orders payable to the New York Labor News Co.

Telephone Call, 1223 Spring.

Brooklyn, Jan. 8.

The Daily People.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—"All hail the DAILY PEOPLE!" is the cry that in fancy I hear raise from the throats of the oppressed and propertyless wage-workers from end to end of this land.

Though not knowing how long I shall remain in this city, I want to say that you may count on me to always do my utmost to send in items of correspondence to the DAILY PEOPLE wherever I am. Should I remain in Vancouver, you can depend on me as a regular correspondent. "And there are others."

A. H. SPENCER.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 3.

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LEWIS HOECKEL.

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ELECTION FIGURES.

Official Returns for Kings County, N. Y., of the S. L. P. Vote.

The result of the official count of the votes cast in Kings County, N. Y., has only now been made public in detail. The vote reported for Comrade Flebiger, whose name appeared at the head of the Socialist Labor Party ticket, is 4,361, an increase of 216 over the vote of 1898. The official figures for the several county and district candidates are as follows:

County Offices—
P. Flebiger, District Attorney..... 4,361
G. A. Rosenblatt, Sheriff..... 4,354
W. A. Kelly, Register..... 4,459
W. H. Wherry, County Clerk..... 4,382
A. S. Brown, Treasurer..... 4,504

Municipal Court Judges—
1st District, J. H. Samuelson..... 522
2d " J. F. Martin..... 1,531
3d " A. Rubach..... 1,019
4th " E. Forbes..... 1,010

Members of Assembly—
1st District, P. Regan..... 102
2d " R. Fitzgerald..... 173
3d " B. Hughes..... 83
4th " A. Jarrold..... 152
5th " L. P. Weber..... 90
6th " L. Kunz..... 285
7th " P. Murphy..... 345
8th " H. Samuelson..... 174
9th " T. Walsh..... 65
10th " J. T. Keveney..... 160
11th " F. A. Lefse..... 339
12th " E. Rothkopf..... 212
13th " W. L. Brower..... 236
14th " G. F. Turner..... 120
15th " J. Ebert..... 67
16th " O. Sorenson..... 167
17th " F. C. Wolf..... 235
18th " H. Kuhn..... 374
19th " H. Vogt..... 388

Aldermen—
1st District, F. Peterson..... 118
2d " W. Burke..... 188
3d " F. T. Phillips..... 75
4th " C. F. Hayward..... 107
5th " H. B. Ludwig..... 191
6th " G. B. Cook..... 229
7th " H. Nowak..... 337
8th " T. Cooke..... 181
9th " J. Le Coste..... 97
10th " A. C. Kihn..... 152
11th " S. Mummery..... 321
12th " F. Loehr..... 209
13th " R. Stone..... 248
14th " H. L. Hansen..... 135
15th " H. Murden..... 72
16th " J. Haerer..... 179
17th " J. Pothast..... 24
18th " E. Mueller..... 351
19th " J. Manthey..... 397

A Challenge.

LYNN, Mass., Jan. 7.—At last night's meeting of Laster's Alliance, L. A. 267, S. T. & L. A., a challenge was issued to the Lynn Laster's Protective Union to send representatives to meet representatives of the Lynn Laster's Alliance Union No. 267 in public to debate the questions: "Whether or not past methods and forms of labor organizations are a hindrance or a benefit to the wage-working class"; or to discuss any phase of the organizations of labor in the past, or present, calculated to bring about the solidarity of the working class.

LYNN LASTER'S ALLIANCE UNION, CHARLES GIBSON, President.

MICHAEL OROTTY, Secretary.

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Capitalist "Unionism."

Exhibition of Corruption and Subterfuge to Capitalism.

The pure and simple spirit that characterizes the efforts of Typographical Union No. 6, of New York, to win the fight against the "Sun," is saddening, to a worker possessing common sense. Recently the union started to publish a leaflet called "The Eclipse." At the end of the leading editorial, called "Greeting," in Vol. 1, No. 1, of the leaflet appears the following frantic appeal:

"Give us your support, all right-thinking men, whether you touch at the desk or in the workshop, and a victory will be won over labor's enemy that will be most enduring."

With this cry for help on their lips, the following illustrates how these fakirs, being devoid of class-consciousness and, therefore, of solidarity, belittle the struggles of other workers and suppress the encouraging import of their victories. On the top of the third column, same page as preceding, we find:

"It is not often that the Board of Mediation can be complimented on bringing a strike to a successful close, and it is with pleasure we note their work in ending the strike of the employees of the Liberty Silk Mills. To the credit of Mr. Henry A. Van Liew, president of the company, he was willing to listen to reason and acknowledge that there was something to be learned from the workers. He recognized the complaints of their help, whether expressed through their shop organization or through their trade unions, much suffering would be avoided and no end of worry and financial loss saved to the employer."

Read that gem of pure and simplicity carefully. Note the compliment to the company's president, Mr. Henry A. Van Liew. Do not skip the earnest solicitation for the employer's welfare. No mention whatever of the justness of the cause of the strikers, the spirit of sacrifice and determination through which the men won the victory. Not even a hint that the victory was won under the auspices of the S. T. & L. A., although it was common news in the capitalist dailies.

Now watch the colors chase each other in this jewel, taken from the same "Eclipse":

A Low Political Trick.

Officers and members of No. 6 are expressing hot indignation over a poster which has recently appeared on the streets, after the manner of those formerly gotten out by the Union, bearing this inscription:

THE SUN.
The official organ of the
Republican Party
employs
Scab Labor.

The officers of the Union, pending the application for injunction by the "Sun," have entirely ceased boycott work, and that, though there were no thought of injunction, they would not dare to outrage the thousands of Republicans in the Union by thus coupling that party with the "Sun."

Here we have the organ of "Big Six" stating that, while one part of its members is trying to exploit its life-and-death struggle in behalf of Tammany, Judge Bookstaver's party, other thousands of members are supporting the Republican Party, of which the "Sun" is the leading metropolitan organ. And both elements are supporting the two "Sun" parties, while the fight against the "Sun" is in progress. Members of No. 6 are being assessed 4 per cent. of their weekly wages to maintain this farce of a fight, while the leading fakirs tacitly advise the members not to vote against the political backers of the "Sun."

One more whack and this drubbing is finished.

There follows a conversation overheard at the New York end of the Brooklyn Bridge between two union pickets:

FIRST PICKET—How did you make out with Journey & Bauman's?

SECOND PICKET—No go. When I asked them to withdraw their advertising from the "Sun," they said: "We are not afraid of losing the trade of you workmen. None of you are making money enough to buy from us."

Away with these old-style, ignorant, stupid, corrupt and out-of-date "unions." They vote their enemies, the capitalist class, behind the injunction-making powers, and when they get hit they shout: "Help! help! we are sinking." We workers must join the S. T. & L. A., which is the economic wing of the S. L. P., and march to the conquest for the ownership of that industrial and political machinery which No. 6, with its Idaho outrages-endorsed Kennedy, and all back number unions are wasting their time and hard-earned dollars in a vain effort to prevent from serving the capitalist class to which they now belong.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

ARCHIE JARROLD.

S.T. & L.A. CIGARS

SHOULD BE SMOKED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE S. T. & L. A. AND S. L. P.

ECKSTEIN BROS.

HAVE THE BEST S. T. & L. A. CIGARS. 400 ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THEM AND TAKE NO OTHERS.

for sale in all Socialist Club Rooms. Agents wanted in every town in the U. S.

ECKSTEIN BROS., 72 Ave. B, N. Y.

FREE LECTURES

ARRANGED BY THE Yorkville Agitation Committee S. L. P.

Every Sunday Evening, 8 P. M. at 414 E. 71st STREET.

SUBJECT FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 14: The physical struggle now going on in France and the Philippines, compared to the class struggle.

LECTURER: B. O'TOOLE.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Lecture, Entertainment & Ban

will be given by THE 7th Assembly District Branch.

S. L. P., Brooklyn, on Saturday Eve., February 17th, 1900.

Parish Hall, 24 Ave. B, 534 St. South Bklyn.

Comrade DE LEON will speak. First Class Concert and Song. 445 TICKETS, Incl. Hot-Check, 25 CENTS

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name, will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. Name other will be recognized.]

Don't write on both sides of the sheet;
Don't write on tissue paper;
Don't write with pencil;
Don't write with a broom-stick, if a tooth-pick is handy, pen preferred;
Don't crowd your lines;
Don't begin at the uppermost edge of the sheet;
Don't abbreviate;
Don't forget to give your P. O. address and date of letter;
Don't forget to give name and date of paper when sending clippings;
Don't write your signature as tho' you wished to remain incognito;
Don't write proper names so as to insure the chances of their being misspelled;
Don't write on sheets of uneven size;
Don't take this ill.

Supplemental on Thomas F. Connolly, of Lowell, Mass.

TO THE PEOPLE.—The remarks on Thomas F. Connolly in last week's issue of THE PEOPLE should be supplemented with a few facts. These facts will show that, in him, we have a man who can give "Sammy Go" cards and spades.

I will not go back a few years and touch a few incidents in his career to show that he is almost a king of his class—the Labor Fakir class; and instead of getting a job from the politicians of this State, as THE PEOPLE suggests, he should have been put on nothing less than the Industrial Commission—right alongside the Typographical Union.

In '94 and '95 Mr. Connolly ran as a Senator on the People's Party ticket, and from the public platform denounced both the Republican and Democratic parties, preaching Socialism (a la Wayland) and pushing the "Coming Nation." The District was then represented by a Democrat, but has since become Republican.

In that grand year for spoils,

